Rail Link between Sundargarh to Jharsuguda

4027 KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to connect the District Headquarters Sundargarh with the rail line from Jharsuguda;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction and the time schedule for completion thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Constraint of resources.

Committee on Wildlife Protection

4028 SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Committee had been appointed under direction of the Delhi High Court and the Committee had made several recommendations for protection of the wild life;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement these recommendations;

(d) whether there is also any proposal to amend the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Important recommendations of the Committee submitted to the Delhi High Court are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) As desired by the Delhi High Court an affidavit has been filed by this Ministry giving comments on each of the recommendations to the Delhi High Court. The matter is now subjudice.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) An interstate committee has been set up to review the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and to recommend necessary changes to make its implementation more effective.

STATEMENT

Important Recommendations Made by the Committee on Wildlife Protection

1. Create a separate Ministry for Natural Resources (Forests and Wildlife).

2. Indian Board for Wildlife should be given statutory backing, the Executive Director, adequate powers, funding the secretariat in the proposed Ministry of Natural Resources (Forests and Wildlife).

3. All State Wildlife Advisory Boards must be constituted and must meet regularly. Honorary Wildlife Wardens must be appointed.

4. Create wildlife wings in Indian and State Forest Services.

5. Ensure all Indian Forest Services as well as State Forest Officers, Foresters and Forest Guards receive wildlife training which should be specialised for those operating for the Wildlife Wing.

6. Implement S.K. Roy report on tourism and Subramanian Committee report along with further suggestions of this report.

7. Increase India's Protected Area network to 7.5% by 2000 A.D.

8. Divide India into five wildlife zones and have action plans for each with implementation at zonal/state level.

9. Create Wildlife Protection Schemes for wildlife residing outside the P.A. network.

10. Better implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes like Rhino Protection Plan etc. is needed.

11. Protected Areas should be given more autonomy to utilise funds.

12. Institute incentive and award schemes and other welfare measures for field staff.

13. Improve scientific research and integrate it to field management of wildlife.

14. Improve anti-poaching measures.

15. Establish intelligence gathering network for control of poaching and wildlife trade.

16. Improve legal support system to control wildlife crimes.

17. Control illegal trade in wildlife derivatives by designating special courts, establishing intelligence gathering networks, exchange of information, associating other enforcement agencies.

18. Take steps to harmonise relationship of forest communities with wildlife.